

*To the Secretary of State:*

House bill No. 143, entitled "An Act to amend Article 3979a, Chapter 13, Title 86, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, by adding Section 4, providing for the granting of permanent certificates to certain persons, and to declare an emergency," is herewith transmitted, disapproved.

The objections to the bill may be best and for the most part stated in the language of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to whom it has been submitted for consideration. They are as follows:

The bill is in the main a reproduction of the existing law which relates to the issuance of diplomas and certificates by the University of Texas, the only change being in Section 4, which reads:

"Diplomas conferred by the trustees of any first-class college having a Department of Pedagogy, together with a certificate from said Department of Pedagogy, said course in pedagogy to be approved by the State Board of Education, shall have the force and effect of a permanent State certificate; the State Board of Education shall decide what colleges of the State are entitled to the privileges and provisions of this section."

The section above quoted is open to several objections.

First, it makes it the duty of the State Board of Education to pass upon the classification of these colleges and universities, whereas, in the existing law, Article 3981a, Revised Statutes, this duty devolves on the State Board of Examiners, the members of which are professional teachers. The duty is an onerous one even to the State Board of Examiners, and it will be doubly so to the State Board of Education, who will be required to familiarize themselves with the curricula of several hundred institutions of learning in the United States.

Second, this section does not determine what diplomas shall be recognized. In Article 3981a, Revised Statutes, the degrees of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science and bachelor of letters, or some higher academic degree must be offered. At present quite a number of institutions grant a great variety of diplomas, some of which carry a small amount of scholarship.

It is of exceeding importance to the efficiency of the public school system that uniformity should exist in the grade of scholarship possessed by those who teach in the public schools and that such grade should be of the best charac-

ter possible. Otherwise, the public school system cannot attain the high standard which is so greatly to be desired. Too much care cannot be exercised in granting permanent State certificates, and every possible safeguard should be thrown around their issuance, so that they may not become the property of the incompetent or unworthy.

JOSEPH D. SAYERS,  
Governor.

April 24, 1901. \_\_\_\_\_